

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0002]:

**BACKGROUND**

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0004]:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] ~~The~~ An object of the present invention is, ~~therefore~~, to provide a clutch assembly which will enable the clutch actuating force to be adapted to a linear compensating spring while entailing little expenditure.

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] ~~This objective is achieved for a clutch assembly of the type mentioned at the outset by present invention~~ provides a clutch assembly that includes a spring force which acts in the direction of the force of the lining springiness on the lever plate and whose magnitude is adapted to the magnitude of the force of the linear compensating spring.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] ~~The advantages attained by the present invention lie in particular~~ is advantageous in that the loading of the clutch actuator is able to be varied by the action of an additional spring force and thus better adapted to a linear compensating spring. In this context, the lever system design of the closed clutch requires that the release bearing apply a greater load over the entire range of motion. This force-travel characteristic may then be advantageously compensated by the clutch actuator using a simple linear coil spring.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0015]:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0015]:

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**